

ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in that battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in many of the citizens in communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of dedication and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 18, 1999, at the Gary Genesis Center in Gary, Indiana. In the past year, these individuals have, in their own ways, acted with courage, met challenges, and used their abilities to reach goals and enhance their communities.

Former Gary City Councilman Roosevelt Haywood will be honored with the 1999 "Marcher's Award" for his contributions to the struggle for equality of civil rights. As a leader of the Fair Share Organization, he worked diligently in his fight for the civil rights of all minorities. In addition, Mr. Clifford Minton will receive the prestigious 1999 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Drum Major Award" for his outstanding contributions to fighting segregation. Clifford was one of the founders of the Frontiers International Civic Club and is the former Director of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana. Both Roosevelt Haywood and Clifford Minton should be applauded for their civil rights efforts in Northwest Indiana.

I would also like to recognize several Gary Tolleston Junior High School students: Tynes Anderson; Kenneth Bonner; Breone Dupre; LaKisha Girder; LeYona Greer; Katina Haaland-Ramer; Floyd Hobson; Leah Johnson; Ayashia Muhammad; Brooklyn Rogers; Brannon Smith; Mason Smith; Whitney Sullivan; Sheena Tinner; Phyllis Walker; and Courtney Williams. These students are members of the Tolleston Junior High School Spell Bowl Team, which won its fifth consecutive State Spell Bowl Championship. The team's success is also a credit to the outstanding ability and leadership of its teachers. In particular, Margaret Hymes and Janice Williams should be commended for the devotion they have demonstrated as coaches for the Tolleston Junior High School Spell Bowl Team. Additionally, Tolleston Principal Lucille Upshaw and Dr. Mary Guinn, Gary Superintendent of Schools, should be recognized for their support. The accomplishments of these outstanding individuals are a reflection of their hard work and dedication to scholarship. Their scholastic effort and rigorous approach to learning have made them the best in the state. They have also brought pride to themselves, their families, their schools and their communities.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Miss Andrea Ledbetter of Gary, Indiana. She has been selected for the People to People Student Ambassador Program as part of the delegation going to New Zealand. The roots of the Student Ambassador Program reach back to 1956, when U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded People to People. He believed that individuals reaching out in friendship to citizens of other countries could contribute significantly to world peace. This is an excellent opportunity for Andrea to experience unparalleled opportunities for personal growth through an enriching program of educational and cultural interaction in another country.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. They set goals and worked to achieve them. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other colleagues to join me in commending their initiative, determination and dedication.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH & SERVICES

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of American Indian Health & Services. American Indian Health & Services is a non-profit organization that has been providing needed health services to Native Americans in Santa Barbara County since 1995. The mission of the organization is to improve the health and general welfare status of urban American Indians by providing quality comprehensive health services that are culturally appropriate, accessible and socially responsive. The organization serves all members of tribes and nations in an atmosphere that respects individuality, culture and identity.

American Indian Health & Services is celebrating five years of care and has received Federal, State, County and private funding to provide alcohol and substance abuse counseling, medical and dental care, youth programs, elders programs, benefits counseling and disease prevention.

As a nurse, I am very pleased to join the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers in celebrating five outstanding years of care.

HOUSE GIFT RULE AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the weakening of the Gift Ban in the House of Representatives.

For the past several years, the American people have become increasingly concerned about the power of special interests in Washington. They believe, sometimes correctly, that the day-to-day relationship between lobbyists and Members of Congress is simply too cozy. This has caused many Americans to wonder whose agenda is being pursued in Washington, the public's interest or the special interests?

For this reason, in October of 1995, I voluntarily instituted a Zero Tolerance Gift Ban on my office. Under this policy, my office no longer accepts any gifts from either constituents or special interests. All gifts that I or members of my staff receive have been returned or donated to a local charity. Meals paid by lobbyists are outlawed under my policy as well, and so are free tickets to sporting or commercialized cultural events. In addition

to these restrictions, no junkets are allowed. A remarkable number of special interest groups still offer all-expense-paid trips for members of Congress and their staff. In my office, these invitations are rejected.

After voluntarily imposing my own Gift Ban, I supported legislation to institute a Gift Ban that applied to all House Members and their staff. This new House-wide policy went into effect on January 1, 1996. I was proud to support this much needed reform in the House of Representatives. However today, I am saddened to learn that House leadership has chosen to take steps backward in our reform efforts. The legislation quickly passed on the House floor today, without the opportunity for opposition from Members, begins to unravel the policy we enacted two years ago. Weakening the reforms we previously supported undermines our previous efforts and gives the American people reason to question our motives. Had I been given the opportunity to vote on this motion Mr. Speaker, I would have voted against diluting the House Gift Ban.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SENIOR YOUTH ORCHESTRA

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 115 outstanding young men and women in the Montgomery County Senior Youth Orchestra. The members of this illustrious group have been selected to represent Montgomery County and the state of Maryland at the American Celebration of Music which will take place in Austria from June 18-27, 1999.

The Montgomery County Senior Youth Orchestra is one of a very select group of musical organizations in the United States who will be celebrating the rich musical and cultural heritage of Austria, and observing the centennial of Johann Strauss. Under the direction of Olivia W. Gutoff, the orchestra will perform in Austria's four imperial cities: Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Graz.

One of the oldest youth orchestra programs in the country, the Montgomery County Youth Orchestra program was founded in 1946. It enjoys an international reputation, having performed in England, Wales, Switzerland, and at the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Music Educators National Conference, the Music Educators National Conference Eastern Division Conference and the Maryland Music Educators Conference. The Montgomery County Youth Orchestra's summer music program led to the formation of the Maryland Center for the Arts, which is now operated by the Maryland State Department of Education. Over the years, the Montgomery County Youth Orchestra program has grown from one orchestra to four. These four are the String Ensemble, Preparatory, Junior and Senior Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the outstanding young men and women of the Montgomery County Senior Youth Orchestra and their conductor, Mrs. Olivia Gutoff. I thank them for the honor which has been bestowed upon Maryland as they represent us at the American